America COMPETES Act – 12 Data Elements	Work in Progress	Completion Date
1 - A unique statewide student identifier that does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system		Completed
2 - Student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information		Completed
3 - Student-level information about the points at which students exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop out, or complete P-16 education programs		Completed
4 - The capacity to communicate with higher education data systems		Completed
5 - A State data audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability		Completed
6 - Yearly test records of individual students with respect to assessments under section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965		Completed
7 - Information on students not tested by grade and subject		Completed
8 - A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students		Completed
9 - Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in this plan	Estimated completion date – September 2014
10 - Student-level college readiness test scores		Completed
11 - Information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework		Completed
12 - Information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education	No new data needs have been identified yet, but may be identified in policy discussions	

Data Element #9: Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned

In conjunction with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the OPI has developed a high-level plan for how the state would collect student transcript information for each K-12 student at the completion of each grade and store that information in an electronic student transcript repository. The details of this plan were included in the state's application to the Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education) for a K-20 state longitudinal data system grant. OPI submitted its application to IES in December 2011 and was awarded a $3.9 million award in June 2012.

Milestones for Data Element #9	Completion Date
USED awards grant to MT OPI for a K-20 state longitudinal data system grant to create an electronic student transcript repository	June 2012
OPI contracts with a vendor for the transcript service	October 2013
Develop and conduct training for LEAs (high schools)	Summer 2014
Deliver data to the repository for students enrolled in the 2013-14 school year	September 2014

Budget for Implementation of Data Element #9

The OPI estimates that the cost of designing, implementing and loading data into an electronic student repository and training school districts in its use is $3.9 million. The cost estimate and timelines are described in detail in the state's application for a K-20 state longitudinal data system grant. The grant also identifies the staffing associated with this project.

Data Element #12: Information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education

No new data needs have been identified for Data Element #12 although the OPI expects that information needs will arise from the on-going work of various P-20 policy groups. Three initiatives in particular are likely to identify data that is needed to address alignment issues and the adequacy of preparation for success in postsecondary education.

1) The K20 Data Governance Team is developing a research initiative.
2) Montana has adopted the Common Core State Standards and Assessments.
3) Montana has an active Dual Enrollment Task Force that is working on improving access to and affordability of dual enrollment opportunities.

Any one of these initiatives is likely to require additional data gathering and analysis.